MOST TRVE AND MORE ADmirable newes,

EXPRESSING THE MIRACVlous preſeruation of a young Maiden of the towne of Glabbich in the Dukedome of Guliſche:

And,

THE STRANGE YET WORTHY execution of *Iohn Honaver*, of Brunholf *at Wittenberg, this preſent* yeere 1597.

Condemne not ere ye read, and hauing read, wonder at the Almighties worke.

LONDON.
Printed by Adam Iſlip for *Thomas Stirrop*, dwelling in Pouls Church-yard at the ſigne of the George, 1597.

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To his especiall freind, Master *Ed. Harc. Merchant in London.*

SIr (as you haue desired) I haue done all my endeauour to satisfie you with the truth of such note-worthy things, as in these parts happen; beeing recompenced by you with like for like from London, our naturall and beloued Citie. So it is (that beeing certified of a matter beyond all naturall reason wonderfull) that at this instant is to be seene at the towne of Glabbich in the Dukedome of Gulische neare vnto Colaine, from whence I departed not beleeuing the straunge report of many my good frends, till mine eyes had assured my heart, of that which mine eares coulde not perswade it vnto. And to be plaine with you, though I did see it, so admirable the report is, that I am doubtfull to deliuer it, least you should call my knowen credit in question, and count me a reporter of fabulous lyes.

But to cleare my selfe of that supposition, I haue sent you the names and dwelling places of

diuers our countrymen that inhabite in and about London, who saw what I did see, wondered as I did, and will witnesse on their oathes the truth of what I write. Besides I haue sent you the Towne seale to a certificate of the truth, signed by the Magistrates, with the occasion, why it was gotten: and first will I name my witnesses.

Bartholomew Powels.

Gerrard Powels.

Harman Rutters.

These three aboue written dwell in the parish of Saint Olaue, commonly called Saint Touleys in Southwarke.

Henry the post,

Of the parish of Saint Katherines by the Toure.

Henry Powels,

Dwelling in the late Dukes place neare Algate.

Henry Hester,

Of Waltham Stow in Essex.

These to my knowledge did see this admirable wonder, which yet continueth for any to see that haue occasion to trauell into those parts.

Now

NOw hauing in some part cleared my way, & strengthened my selfe with witnesses dwelling by you, I will the holdier tell you this strange and admirable accident; which in my conscience (among many other wonders) is in this wicked age by God ordained to reproone the folly of those fooles, that say in their heart, there is no God, that iest at the promise of his cõming, that blasphemously affirm nature to be conseruer of all things. For no naturall Philosopher in the world can yeeld reason for this admirable wonder. Longer I will not hold you from it: the substance and truth is this.

The miraculous preseruation of a young Maiden of the towne of Glabbiche in the Dukedome of Gulische.

ONe Iohn Iohans, and Mary his wife, dwelling in the village of Winckler, being people of honest report had a daughter called Veitgen Iohans, who from the feast of holimesse in the yeare 1593 to this very instant hath neuer receiued any kind of sustenaunce, nor done those necessary workes of nature which euery creature naturally is forced to, yet is shee faire, of a very good complection, and to all mens seeming of perfit health. Her parentes by no meanes can yeeld reason of this her strange kind of life, but doe confesse shee hath eaten, drunke, and done as other children haue. Onely this they say, that in Anno 1593 shee had a very greeuous sickneſſe, and vpon the recouery

nery she fed but little, and daily lesse and lesse, till at length indeed shee tooke not any food: the last of any, being as I before said, upon holy the day Anno 1593. At the first her parents gest is to arise from sullennesse or wantonesse, but neither threats nor entreaty could since make her take any sustenance: but what beyond compasse of all manner reason God inwardly nourisheth her withall.

Me thinkes (M. Harc.) I see a humour growing in you, or if not of your self it come, some humourous person doth persuade you, that the parents of this child doe get vnto themselues profite, going about to make their daughter bee thought another Ioan the Pucelle, or such a one as was our Hypocriticall holye maid of Kent. But I can assure you, that they are no such people, but wealthy persons of peaceable and godlie conuersation, such as make no gaine by their child, but are rather much hindered by entertaining those that come to see her, neither doe they cloister her vp nor chamber her so close, but shee conuerseth daily with neighbours children, at church, at worke, at play, and neuer leaueth company, till they goe to meat, which it seemeth her stomacke loatheth.

To

To adde more credite hereunto, I send you as I promised, the copie of the certificate, which the Gouernours at the earnest request of Bartholmew Powels dwelling in London as aforesaid, did get; who will shew you the originall and the Towne seale at it: The copie followeth.

WE Iohn Stambe, William Hertzigh, Herman at Stappen, and Iohn Spangen, with the rest of the magistrates of the Citie of Glabbich in the dukedome of Gulische, doe by these our letters giue to vnderstand to all maner of persons whatsoeuer, before whom these presents shall come, that at the writing hereof there was before vs one Iohn Iohans with Mary his lawfull wife, dwelling at Wmelē, being a village in the Dukedome of Gulische, who said that they were of the age of sixtie yeares and vpwards, who brought with them a maiden child of their owne, of the age of twelue yeares, and there they did depose, that the saied child had neither eat nor drunke, nor taken any kind of food to sustaine nature, neither yet done the necessities of nature, since the feast of Holymesse in the yeare of our Lorde, 1595 vnto this present 28 of July in the yeare of our Lorde 1596, and that alwayes before the feast of Holymesse before named, shee did and had lyued by eating and drinking as all other children doe, vntill it pleased

God to visite her with a great sickenesse, in which sickenesse shee beganne to leaue her meate by little and little, but yet continued a small time onely by drinking of milke: and at Holymesse aforesaid, shee altogither left all foode whatsoeuer, and so shee doeth continue: and yet shee is of as redde a colour and as faire a complexion as most be, as this picture doeth shewe: which picture was brought before vs with the childe: also she doeth increase in strength according to her age. And for the fuller certifying hereof, there were at the same time before vs these three witnesses, Matthias Hennen, Peter Hennen, and Vitgen Engels, neighbours vnto the saide Iohn Iohans, who deposed that this childe was often with their children playing, and that they often offering it meate, shee alwayes refused it, and yet they tryed her diuerse times with diuerse things, and alwayes found her to loath meate so farre, that when any meate was either giuen to their children or stirring in their houses, shee would goe away: so that they saide vpon their othe, that they thought that the smell of meat was loathsome to her.

These our present letters are sent forth at the request of one Bartholmew Powels dwelling in the City of London in England, who desired our letters for the fuller certifying of the truth of the premisses: and we being assured of the trueth hereof, both by the witnesses and other experiences, thought it good not to deny his request, that the trueth of so straunge a thing might be abroad

knowen, to the praise and glory of God. Written and sealed in our presence, the 28. of July. 1596.

Of this (M. Hare,) I haue said all that I can, onely I conclude, the Lorde is mightie in all his workes, and wonderfull in all his waies, hee will haue his glorie knowne, neither shall any thing in heauen or earth bee ioyned as an aid with him, so full of Almighty maiestie and iealousie is he: in his kindled wrath shall vnbeleeuers fall, and the scorners shall be as stubble before fire.

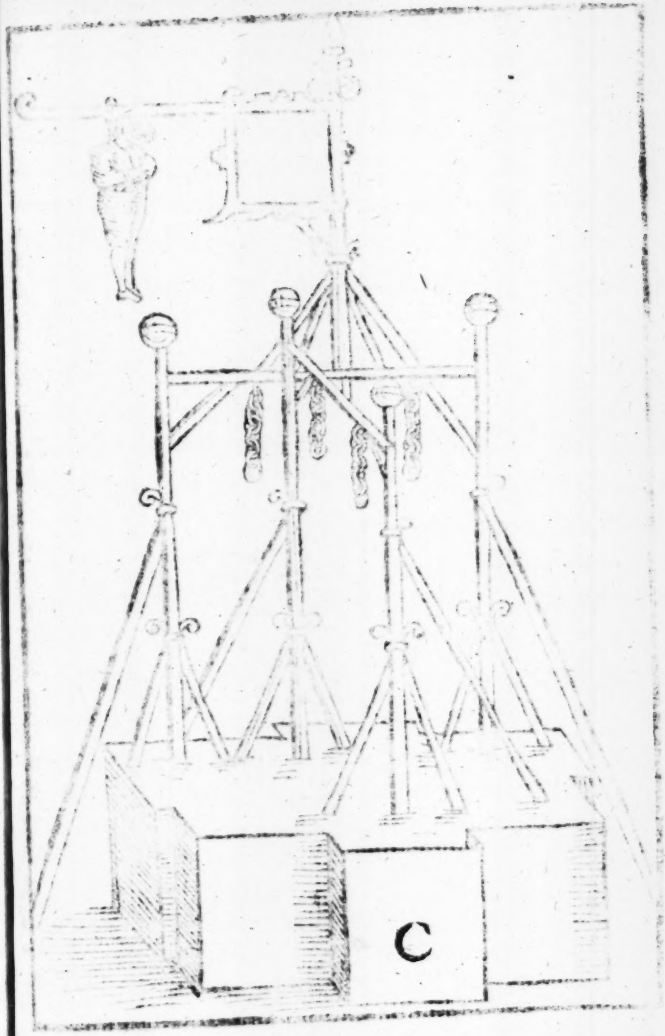
I suspect sir, that my tediousnes doth wearie you, but haue a little pacience, and (it may be) I will bee briefer and merrier in this that followeth.

The ſtrange yet worthy execution of *Iohn Honauer*, of Brunholfe at Wittenberg, this preſent yeare, 1597.

IT hath ben repoꝛted foꝛ truth a long time, that the Duke and State of Wittenberge had gotten a fellowe foꝛ the nones, ſo excellent an Alchimiſt, as the wide woꝛld had not his like, The knowledge of the Philoſophers ſtone was his as ſure as euer it was Salomons. Oh hee was a perrilous fellowe by repoꝛt, hee entended to paue Wittenberg with ſiluer, and couer the houſes with gold. As foꝛ the Indies and their extrements gotten with ſo long trauaile, ſo daungerous fightes, & ſuch like attempes, he held them in ſcoꝛne, the Elixer of life was his, and thereon hee would venter his life.

NOw sir hee was not a thinne, peaking beggerly Alchimist, futelesse, bloodlesse, freindlesse, none of them that had smokt out their eies with fumentations, nor wrinkled their cheekes like a dried Potatoes tongue, with the ill spende and long practise of their fore loosing science: But this was a tohy fat faced Gentleman, nay by your leaue a Nobleman hee would needes bee, and lord of Bunholke, his apparell couered with gold, at his haire and eares gold hung carelesselie dangling, chaines, carkanets, braeclets, garters, hatband, all true gold, so that hee seemed another Plutus, that god of mettals whom the Poetes faine so many rich fables of. To make short, so this gallant crept in credit with the duke and State, that hee was employed at their charge about his rare practise, a multitude of expences they were at, and still still some crosse chaunce happened that hindered the going forward of this golden blessing. At last perceiuing themselues to bee palpably abused, they grewe round with this squaring gallant: telling him that they would punish his deceit, if hee did not speedily performe his promise. My young maister hauing good hope to giue them the slip, (as all such slippery Gentlemen of his vnstayed faculty striue to doe) set them a day when they should see the admired experiment hee had promised, or if hee failed hee offered his life in satisfaction. The daie came, but no Philosophers stone was readie to turne all things to gold, as Midas did by touching:

Therefore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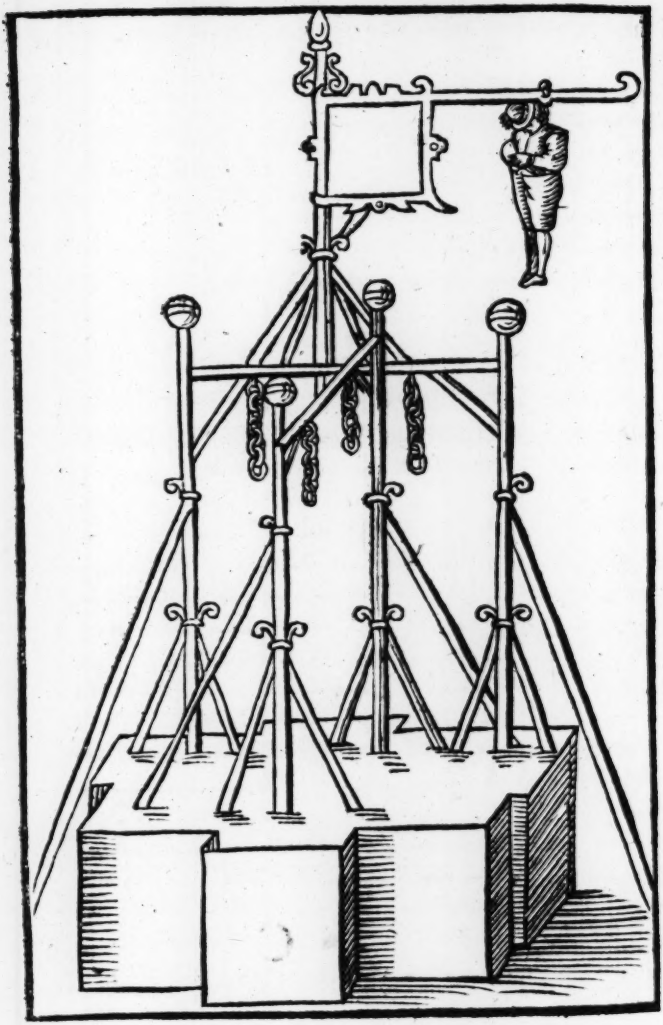

Therefore the State adding more to their loſſe prepared a gallowes of a quadrangle forme moſt artificially wrought, being vpon worke gilt ouer, with bowles on the top and other curious fine worke. It was placed on a ſquare of ſtone, and from the top in the middle of the quadrangle went vp an vpright barre of yron and another croſſing yet in manner of a gibbet, this held a broad plane, vpon which was ingrauen theſe words.

Here hangeth the crafty Alchimiſt that ſcaped from Struckgart, who pretended to make gold of yron, and becauſe hee lied and did deceiue, he is hanged on yron gilded.

The daie of his death was on Aprill the ſecond day 1597, hee was brought to the gallowes with a hundred and fourteſcore horſemen, and a multitude of footemen, penitent hee was, and did confeſſe his errour, yet a little bragged of his art.

AND by the way (M. Harc.) I here note, all of his kinde, haue that kinde of fault how euer they be ouertaken, yet they haue a mad deſperate hope to attaine that in one houre that thouſandes of them could neuer meete with in an age. You know ſome about London, that ſhall bee nameleſſe, who ſtill lacke purging in the maiſter veyne, againſt this mad frenzy of Alchimiſt, and will take

no warning by the daily iſſue that runneth and bauoureth from their friendes coffers and their inheritances.

But leauing them to bewepe their obone loſſe, returne we to Iohn Honauer, by himſelfe named lord of Brunholſe, a captiue captaine in that beggerly beguiling art. He was ſuted in cloth of gold, his ſtockings ſilke, his hat thumd with gold and ſilke, his band of gold about his necke, a chaine of gold and in this habite he was hanged dead, on a barre of yron croſſing from the Uane, like the croſſe poſt of a gibbet: being dead he was diſrobed, the hangman leazing on his gallant ſute, and in foure gilt yron chaines, his bodie was hung vp.

On a pillet by the gallowes was his liuely picture with verſes of high Dutch written to this effect.

Here iuſtly hange I *Iohn Honauer*,
Thereon ſuming Alchimiſt, deceiuer
In Meherland this youth was borne
Who now is made his countries ſcorne,
He tooke vpon him that he would
Conuert plaine yron to rich gold,
Many lords beleeud his knauery
And made him rich with coſtly brauery.
Burns lies did get him fame
Sodomia hood brought him ſhame,
The Duke of Witenbergeo manded
Auſtruckgait he ſhould be impriſoned.
But hence he ſcaped to his greate ſhame
For by his flight his life he loſt,

Condemn'd he was hanged to bee,
Gilt yron was his gallow tree,
He cost the State two tunne of gold
And by his craft his life was sold
Three hundred pounds they more bestow
To hang him with a golden show
So ended he before he wist
Because he was an Alchimist.

These rimes (I leaue my better to translate) the sence I am sure they hold. Hee was brought to execution with a hundred and fourescore horse, and an exceeding nũber of other people, crying, There goes to hang the Algomist: which is a by-name they giue Alchimists in this countrey. Thus ended this young coulener being but foure and twenty years of age: if some of those old companions of that kind which bootlesly trouble other States were so serued the occupation of Alchimie, I mean in the most shifting professors, would proue like the profession of stealing, it indeed being a secret kind of theft.

Thus (M. Hare) haue I done with these two nouels, commending me to you, and referring you to the postscriptum, for one matter I omitted in this last businesse.

Your friend to vse, *Alexander Gurth.*

Post scriptum.

It is not to be forgotten, that when Honauer had broke his day, hee was imprisoned at Struckgart: where escaping, proclamation was made, that any one who apprehended him, should haue three hundred guildens: and so in short time he was soone caught. Once againe farewell. Colen. Sept. xxvii. 1597.

A. G.

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